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# UD Lecturer, Graduate Students Mourn Death of King Hussein Ponder Fate of Jordan

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**UD LECTURER, GRADUATE STUDENTS MOURN  
DEATH OF KING HUSSEIN; PONDER FATE OF JORDAN**

**'KING OF PEACE' IS GONE** — "He was our king of peace and he is gone. We lost our great king and I cannot express the sadness I feel," laments Abdulaziz El-Sinawi, 39, a Jordanian graduate student in chemical engineering at UD. "But we will continue to work for the future and to move forward every day. That is what King Hussein taught us to do."

Hussein's power, El-Sinawi says, laid in his ability to communicate with many people, not just those within his border. "People respected King Hussein because he accepted them as friends. He was honest with them and they knew that."

Though El-Sinawi mourns the death of King Hussein, he is optimistic about the ascension of King Abdullah. "He too is bright, much like his father was. He will walk the same path of peace and lead our country toward good."

For media interviews, contact **Abdulaziz El-Sinawi** at (937) 285-8019.

**ONLY KING HE HAS EVER KNOWN** — "King Hussein did so many things to benefit the Jordanian people and the Middle East in general, especially in helping to work for the peace process," says Jordan native Riad Al-Akkad, a University of Dayton lecturer in the civil engineering department. "He was surrounded by many countries who weren't ready for peace, and he helped make it work. It is a great loss for millions of people, not just for Jordanians."

Like most of the world, Al-Akkad knows little about Abdullah, Jordan's new king and son of Hussein, who died early Sunday morning. "But I believe King Hussein knew what was best for Jordan. I respect his decision. I think he will follow in his father's footsteps."

Though Al-Akkad left Jordan in 1974, he is mourning the loss of the only king he has ever known. "I was born two or three years after King Hussein took power," says Al-Akkad, 43. "Yes, I am sad. I am very sad right now."

For media interviews, contact **Riad Al-Akkad** at work (937) 229-3847 or at home at (937) 439-5290.

**WHOLE COUNTRY FEELS A LOSS** — "I talked to my family this weekend and they said the whole country is in grief," says Bashar Melhim, 24, a graduate student in civil engineering at UD. "Both Jordanians and Palestinians are sad. It's just a horrible grief that we feel for the loss of our king."

Melhim, who was in Jordan in August, said he and his friends predicted Hussein's son Ali — and not Abdullah — would become crown prince, and eventually king of Jordan. "According to our constitution, it should have been Ali. We have to wait and see with Abdullah. He has the potential, I believe. But we do not know just yet."

For media interviews, contact **Bashar Melhim** at (937) 299-7827.